

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 HA-05 TRSE-00 COME-00 EB-08

FAA-00 DOTE-00 ARA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 A-01 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 H-01 INR-07

L-03 OC-06 OMB-01 OPR-02 PA-01 PM-05 PRS-01 CA-01

SCS-06 SP-02 SS-15 SY-05 USSS-00 /099 W

-----012221 110224Z /63/40

O 031444Z DEC 77

FM AMCONSUL HAMILTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2611

S E C R E T HAMILTON 537

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (CLASSIFICATION UPGRADE -SECRET-)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, CASC, PFOR, BD

SUBJECT: CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN BERMUDA: AN UPDATE

REF: TELECON A) RAND/THYDEN (OP CENTER)

B) RAND/WARD (SCA/SCS)

1. THE 6PM TO 6AM CURFEW DECREED BY THE GOVERNOR AFTERNOON OF 2 DECEMBER WILL MOST LIKELY CONTINUE IN EFFECT UNTIL MONDAY. THERE WERE NEW DISTURBANCES IN SEVERAL SECTIONS OF THE ISLAND TONIGHT PERPETRETED BY A MAXIMUM OF 150 YOUNG PEOPLE. FIRE BOMBINGS TO COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS HAS CAUSED DAMAGE THAT WILL RUN INTO SEVERAL MILLIONS OF DOLLARS. MOST IMPORTANTLY, HOWEVER, THERE HAVE BEEN NO DEATHS OR INJURIES EITHER TO NATIVE BERMUDIANS OR FOREIGN TOURISTS. ALL TOURISTS HAVE REMAINED IN THEIR HOTELS OR GUEST HOUSES DURING CURFEW HOURS AND THERE HAVE BEEN NO DISTURBANCES AT ANY OF THESE FACILITIES. AS OF 11PM MOST OF THE SMALL GANGS HAD DISBURSED AND NO NEW INCIDENTS EXPECTED. AIRLINE ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES WILL PROCEED ON SCHEDULE DECEMBER 3. I HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT ADDITIONAL DEPARTURES WILL BE SCHEDULED TOMORROW IF THE  
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DEMAND WARRANTS.

2. TOURIST MINISTRY ESTIMATES THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 6,000 TOURISTS, MOSTLY AMERICANS, PRESENTLY ON THE ISLAND. CONGEN CANVASS OF LEADING HOTELS DISCLOSES THAT ALL GUESTS ARE CALM AND RELAXED AND THAT NO MASS EXODUS OF TOURISTS CUTTING SHORT THEIR PLANNED STAY IS YET EVIDENT. AIRLINES

RESERVATIONS OFFICES CONFIRM THIS ALTHOUGH THERE MAY BE SOME INCREASED DEMAND LATER TODAY.

3. PREMIER TELEPHONED ME AT 6AM TODAY WITH STATUS REPORT AND CURRENT ASSESSMENT. HE AND CABINET WILL MEET LATER IN DAY TO REVIEW SITUATION AND DECIDE FURTHER COURSE OF ACTION. THERE IS REMOTE POSSIBILITY THAT PREMIER MAY REQUEST SMALL CONTINGENT OF BRITISH TROOPS BE FLOWN IN TO BOLSTER SMALL AND OVER-TAXED LOCAL SECURITY FORCES. I HAVE INFORMED PREMIER THAT IF CABINET ASSESSMENT WARRANTS REQUEST FOR OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE, I WOULD HAVE TO RECOMMEND THAT FURTHER COMMERCIAL FLIGHTS TO THE ISLAND BE CANCELLED UNTIL THE SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL. I HAVE BEEN ASSURED BY AMERICAN CARRIERS THAT IF THIS SHOULD OCCUR, THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE AIRCRAFT FOR PASSENGERS WISHING TO LEAVE THE ISLAND.

SUMMARY: THE SITUATION HERE IS INCONGRUOUS. IT IS BUSINESS AS USUAL BY DAY WITH TOURISTS SHOPPING DOWNTOWN, GOLFING AND CARRYING ON USUAL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES. WHILE TOURISTS ARE CLOSETED IN THEIR HOTELS DURING CURFEW HOURS, THIS MINISCULE GANG OF WELL-ORGANIZED MARAUDERS ARE DOING EXTENSIVE PROPERTY DAMAGE TO COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS THROUGHOUT THE ISLAND. MORE OF THE SAME IS EXPECTED TONIGHT. I WILL REVIEW ENTIRE ASSESSMENT WITH THE GOVERNOR AND THE PREMIER AT MID-DAY AND DECIDE WHETHER TO  
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RECOMMEND THAT INCOMING FLIGHTS BE CANCELLED AND WHETHER DEPT SHOULD SUGGEST TO INQUIRERS THAT THEY DELAY TRAVEL TO THE ISLAND.

RAND

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Review Markings:**  
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